

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks/arguments. Claims 1-62 were originally filed with the present Application. In a Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 5-9, 14, 17-22, 37 and 57 were amended, new claims 63-98 were added, and claims 10-12, 23-25, 27-20, 38-40, 46-49 and 58-60 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 13-22, 26, 31-37, 41-45, 50-57 and 61-98 are pending in the present Application.

I. DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-9, 13-22, 26, 31-37, 41-45, 50-57 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type, non-statutory double patenting in view of claims 1-36 of Application No. 09/675,609, now U.S. Patent 6,650,890. In response, the Applicants are filing, along with the present response to the pending Office Action, a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the double patenting rejection in view of the Terminal Disclaimer.

II. PRIOR ART MADE OF RECORD

The Examiner has made U.S. Patents 6,118,856; 6,147,987; and 6,138,146 of record in the present Application, but has not applied these references against the pending claims. The Applicants acknowledge that these references have been made of record, and although they do not believe these references to be particularly relevant, reserves the right to address deficiencies in these references with respect to any pending claims should one or more of the references be applied in the present Application.

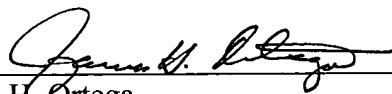
III. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-9, 13-22, 26, 31-37, 41-45, 50-57 and 61-98 are in condition for allowance, and request a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney of Record is such would expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

The Terminal Disclaimer fee of \$65.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d) for a small entity is included with the present filing. Although no additional fees are believed due at this time, if the Commissioner determines that additional fees are required, or an overpayment has occurred, please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 13-0480, referencing the revised Attorney Docket Number specified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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